

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice and amend claims 1, 4, 6, 10 and 17 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member for housing and protecting an optical fiber coupler main body in a longitudinal groove provided in the longitudinal direction of a shaft member, wherein the longitudinal groove having an approximately has a U-shaped cross-section, an exterior bottom surface of and the shaft member having is a flat surface along the longitudinal direction thereof, and a shape in cross-section of the shaft member is a polygonal shape which inscribes a circle.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 1, wherein corners of both ends of the longitudinal groove are beveled.

4. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein corners of both ends of the longitudinal groove are beveled.

5. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 1, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

6. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

7. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according claim 3, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

8. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 4, wherein the shaft member comprises a super invar material or an invar material, and a surface of the shaft member is subjected to chrome plating, tin plating, or nickel plating at a predetermined thickness.

9. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 1, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

10. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

11. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 3, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

12. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 4, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

13. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 5, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

14. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 6, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

15. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 7, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

16. (Original) An optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to claim 8, wherein a surface roughness of the shaft member is 1 to 100 μm .

17. (Currently Amended) An optical fiber coupler comprising an optical fiber coupler reinforcing member according to any one of claims 1, and 3 to 16.